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Buenos Aires

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: June 28, 1961

PARTICIPANTS: Jacobo Timmerman, Public Relations Specialist for Television Channel 9 and a journalist with intimate ties to Regelio Frigerio, former Secretary for Social and Economic Affairs to the President of the Republic.

Irving W. Salert, American Embassy

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Jacobo TIMMERMAN opened the conversation by saying that he was leaving for the United States on Saturday, July 8 in an attempt to meet and persuade former President Harry Truman and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt to come to Argentina and participate in a T.V. program tentatively entitled "Argentina Wants to Know", featuring world-famous personalities interviewed by a panel of outstanding Argentine journalists in an hour-long program once a month over Television Channel 9, the Argentine station affiliated with the NBC. He said that he did not, at this time, ask for U.S. Government or Embassy support, but that he hoped to visit with Edward R. Murrow, Director of USIA, when he visits Washington, but thought that he could arrange this through NBC and, if necessary, American Jewish Committee contacts, and not use the Argentine or the U.S. Embassies for this purpose.

Timmerman said that he was planning to visit other capitals of Europe and that he would invite General MONTGOMERY, Pierre MENDEZ FRANCE, and other world-famous personalities, and maybe even David BEN GURION, to come to Argentina as guests of Channel 9. He said the Channel was prepared to pay US$5,000 for a fee and up to US$20,000 for additional expenses for the services of these personalities. He said that after their broadcast they (the famous personalities), would, if so desired, be given a red carpet tour of Argentina or be permitted to engage in lectures, etc. He said that the Channel 9 station, headed by a Dr. Ilefonso RECALDE, was enthusiastic about this project and had given him carte blanche authority to negotiate for the services of outstanding world leaders to appear on the television station.

I pointed out that it seemed to me that he was shooting a little high and that, if I were he, I would have a list of second or third-choice candidates who were equally important but not quite as famous as the names mentioned by Timmerman.

Timmerman then went on to say that the new Minister Designate of Labor, Ismael BRUNO Quijano, was a personal friend of his and had invited him, Timmerman, to join his "kitchen cabinet" as a special adviser, and that he had accepted. He said that Bruno Quijana, although very young in age (35), was an excellent choice -- an experienced lawyer who was interested in maintaining the status quo in the trade-union movement and also interested in securing, if possible, labor-management peace, avoiding when possible labor conflicts. This, he said, was a political year and Bruno Quijana, a member of the UCRI although calling himself an Aramburu

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man, was interested in securing the political support of the Peronist wing of the Argentine trade-union movement.

Timmerman also said that prior to his departure for the U.S. he was interested in arranging a luncheon for me with Minister of Labor Bruno Quijana. I readily accepted.

He then said that the key advisers to the President were, in the main, pleased with Ambassador Adlai Stevenson's visit here and suggested that they were a little disappointed with the fact that Ambassador Stevenson did not visit with Rogelio Frigerio. I pleaded ignorance and suggested that the program of the Stevenson visit, worked out with the full approval and consent of the Argentine Government and President Frondizi, was so completely crowded that there wasn't a possible moment for visits other than those that were approved and planned in advance, and pointed out also that the Stevenson team didn't have time to visit with the labor sector because of lack of open time on the program.

Timmerman concluded his remarks by saying that he was certain that the Peronist vote would go to Guillermo ACUÑA ANZORENA for governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, and that the Peronists would not run their own candidate in the forthcoming elections. He said if the Peronists ran a separate ticket, the UCRP candidates would win and this PERON did not want to see happen. He said that despite all of the newspaper stores and statements made by the Peronist High Command here in Argentina, Perón would instruct his followers, at the opportune moment, to go along with the UCRI. Timmerman said that he was willing to wager that Acuña Anzorena, former Minister of Labor, would be the next governor of the Province of Buenos Aires. He concluded by saying that "the deal has already been worked out." "Frondizi, Aramburu, Frigerio and Perón are in agreement on the neeessity of maintaining the status quo and the status quo means no., support for Frondizi-selected candidates in the forthcoming elections."

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